Energising youth in Bolivia

The communities in the Andean highlands struggle with many challenges that have a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of the inhabitants. Two main problems are malnutrition and poor hygiene conditions. Practical Action and their local partners implemented a project to showcase how access to solar energy can play a role in tackling these problems.

Due to extreme climate conditions such as freezing temperatures and drought, there is a shortage of nutritious food in the region. Malnutrition impacts cognitive development and therefore school performance of children. To counter this, the Practical Action team and their partners started organic gardens on the school grounds. They installed a solar-powered water pumping system and automated drip irrigation in the organic gardens (solar tents). This allows the school to grow different kinds of vegetables.

Another issue faced by the students is that schools in the region often don’t have warm water and thus cannot provide enough sanitary facilities, which particularly impacts girls of menstrual age.

To improve the sanitary facilities and provide hot water, solar thermal systems were installed at the Eduardo Abaroa School and the San Marcos School. One hot water shower was installed in the Eduardo Abaroa School and 6 in the San Marcos School, 2 of these being accessible for people with disabilities. 72 female students got access to sanitary towels and 109 female students from both schools were trained in menstrual hygiene to increase school attendance.

Practical Action trained teachers, students, the school board and parents to maintain these systems. They also helped the municipal government and the local communities scale up the scope of the solar-pumping system to 16,000 liters per day. Thus it not only benefits the school, but also 421 people belonging to 100 families of the local community.

The results of this project are promising. Thanks to the users and sellers of EKOenergy-labelled renewable energy for making it possible for us to finance projects such as this one, and contribute to the wellbeing of school-going children.

In 2021, EKOenergy granted 25,000 € to a solar energy project in schools in the municipalities of Colquencha and Collana, Bolivia. Practical Action and their partners installed solar-powered boilers to make hot water available for improving hygiene, and also solar PV panels to power a water pump in the organic gardens.

Our Climate Fund

Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals
New projects annually in developing countries
Projects run and monitored by trusted NGOs
Selected by an independent jury
In 2021, the Fund granted 254,178 € for 13 new projects
All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Climate Fund
EKOenergy is the international ecolabel for energy (electricity, gas, heat and cold). We are a non-profit organisation working to fight climate change, protect biodiversity and realise the Sustainable Development Goals.

Energy sold with the EKOenergy ecolabel fulfils strict sustainability criteria. Through our ecolabel we also raise money for our Climate Fund, which is used to finance new renewable energy projects in developing countries.

EKOenergy-labelled energy is sold by licensed energy companies and is available in over 50 countries worldwide. Many consumers of EKOenergy-labelled energy choose to use our ecolabel on their website or products to demonstrate their commitment to a 100% renewable and sustainable world.

EKOenergy users include large international businesses such as SAP, Tetra Pak, VMware, Workday and Genelec as well as cities, public organisations and individual households.

Sustainability criteria: additional value for our planet

- Recommended by environmental organisations
- Extra criteria to minimise the impact of energy production on nature. For example, hydropower installations with fish passes and wind turbines outside important bird areas
- Renewable energy tracked by EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs (In line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)
- Contributes to renewable energy projects in developing countries, advancing the realisation of multiple Sustainable development goals
- Available and recognised worldwide
- Supports the promotion of a transition to renewable energy worldwide

Endorsed by other standards

EKOenergy is recommended by many international environmental standards such as CDP, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Greenkey for hotels and LEED-certification for buildings.

“A growing number of hotels in Europe have already switched to EKOenergy and include the EKOenergy logo in their communication with their guests. Follow their lead and go the extra mile."

“Ecolabels are a way for companies to do more with their purchases. EKOenergy, mentioned by the GHG protocol Scope 2 guidance, is such an option: it is a mark of quality which comes on top of tracking certificates."

“EKOenergy represents the best available option for the sustainable and additional consumption of renewable electricity within Europe.”